



Inspiration for Writing Poetry



What sort of poem did you have in mind?

a story

a comment

a tribute

a protest

an elegy

a character study

a memorial

What Inspires the Ideas?

a newspaper article you've read

an anecdote told or overheard

something you witnessed

a general life reflection?

The **subject** must be important to **you**!

death of a friend or family member

the bitter sweetness of first love

one of life's turning points

old transgressions

a childhood incident

injustices

unacknowledged fears

***Write in second or third person if the content is too
personal or painful.***

Free the

Imagination!

Flood Writing

1. Write 5 minutes at a stretch, continuously, never stopping.
2. Do this 3 or 4 times.
3. Go through the material when you've finished and circle anything interesting.

Free Association

Get a friend to say words at random.

Write down the first response that comes to
you.

Build a poem around these words.

Take a peek...

- Open a diary or journal (yours or someone else's)
- Jot down the first incident on three successive pages.
- Make a poem of these.

[illegible]

- Describe, as closely as you can, some recurring dream or nightmare
- Reverse the sequence
- then make a poem.

Write a Pastiche

Take a stanza of something well known and rewrite it so that

- a) the lines end with nonsense rhymes,
- b) the piece is ruined with the smallest possible change,
- c) the piece looks completely fresh and contemporary.

Now. . .WRITE!

Using these inspiration
ideas, get a start on the
poem you will SLAM for
the contest!